

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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P 291558Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 124843

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 3662 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRASILIA
28 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, BR, US

SUBJ: ARGENTINNE-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS

REF: BA 3625

1. ARGENTINNA RESENTED BRAZIL'S EFFORTS TO BLOCK ORFILA'S
ELECTION TO SECRETARY GENERALSHIP OF OAS, AND RELATIOONS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY SUFFER FURTHER AS A RESULT.

2. TWO HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD
AMB HILL ON MAY 22 THAT THEY CONSIDERED GOB'S POSITION
ON ELECTION OF ORFILA UNWARRANTED AND NOT GROUNDED ON
HISTORICAL PRECEDENT (SEE REFTTEL). FOLLOWING DAY MAY 23,
WHEN AMB HILL MET FONMIN VIGNES AT AIRPORT UPON LATTER'S
RETURN FROM US, ONE OF VIGNES TOP ADVISORS, AMB PULIT,
COMMENTED TO HIM IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT NOTHING
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BRAZIL HAS DONE IN RECENT YEARS HAD SO OFFENDED ARGENTINA

AS ITS EFFORTS TO PREVENT ORFILA FROM GETTING THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. ACCORDING TO PULIT, ARGENTINA IS CONVINCED THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR BRAZILIAN LOBBYING AMONG CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES, ORFILA WOULD HAVE WON EASILY ONCE SAPENA PASTOR STEPPED ASIDE. BRAZIL, THEREFORE, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROLONGED IMPASSE WHICH HAD BEEN DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEMISPHERIC SYSTEM AND EMBARRASSING TO ARGENTINA.

3. SEVERAL ARGENTINES ATTENDING DINNER AT US EMBASSY RESIDENT ON MAY 22 WERE ALSO SHARP IN THEIR CRITICISM OF BRAZILS POSTION. (BRAZILIAN AMBASSADORS WIFE, ON OTHER HAND, WAS AS USUAL, LOUD WITH HER PJORATIVES CONCERNING ARGENTINA AND THE ARGENTINES).

4. COMMENT: ARGENTINE RESENTMENT OVER GOBS POSITION AT THE OAS/GA MAY PROVE OF LITTLE TANGIBLE CONSEQUENCE. AS ONE LOWER RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PUT IT: "THIS WILL SIMPLY ADD TO THE DEEP SUSSPICIONS MOST ARGENTINES ALREADY HAVE OF BRAZIL, IT WILL NOT, HOWEVER RESULT IN ANY SHARP CHANGE OF POLICY OR ACT OF RETALIATION". BRAZILIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME THAT THE PERIOD OF THAW BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTREIS ENDED MONTHS AGO WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR TO BOTH THAT NO QUICK AND HAPPY AGREEMENT ON UTILIZATION OF REIVER SYSTEMS IS POSSIBLE. HENCE RATHER THAN A TURNING POINT, GOB EFFORTS TO BLOCK ORFILA WILL LIKELY SIMPLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ALREADY DOWNWARD TREND IN RELATIONS.
MONTLLOR

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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